

Sunday  
Oak Park, Ill. U.S.A.

May 10. 1896.

My darling Love, —

Your John is thinking  
of this Ursula this warm  
Sunday afternoon, 'tis 93° Fhs.  
in the shade, and it makes  
us flee to some cooler  
climate where there are  
whom we love so much.

You my dear are so  
near to me this moment,  
you who I love as best  
I can not tell whose ideals  
are uppermost in my mind,  
which I shall try and  
attain; — let us each moment  
come nearer and nearer to  
each other, — it is impossible

for me to picture to you  
all my thoughts, - they are  
all and all for you.

There seems to come over  
me one of the quiet  
moments when we are so  
near each other that neither  
can speak, - we are so mutual  
in our ideals and so united  
in our plans that every  
once in a while a strong  
impulse comes to me of  
my being your other self  
and how I represent you  
by my words and actions  
one before the other and  
to the outside world.

How near we are to God  
when we stop and realize our  
dependence upon Him and  
how he has planned  
our past and has our  
future all mapped out, -

surely it is impossible for  
us to see very far beyond  
the horizon. -

More and more I realize  
this when I think of  
where we were a year ago  
and how I told you  
my plans of leaving  
home for four months and  
how we agreed on ideals  
which were most noble and  
of such a nature they grow  
stronger and more firm each  
day. -

Little did I realize what  
sorrows we should divide  
and what joys we should  
share during this year, -  
how beautiful it is we



can come to the same  
Heavenly Father and share  
our joys and sorrows. - Then  
to realize we have in  
Heaven - a mother who is  
watching over us and who  
can intercede for us each  
moment, while we are awake  
as well as asleep, - she will  
always be as dear to me  
as if I had two mothers;  
for many times there are  
points of resemblance brought  
to me between my mother and  
yours. For instance both are  
pure, Christian mothers, whose  
life lives are to make their  
husbands happy - ready and  
willing to share sorrows as  
well as joys, - both always alert  
to have their children represent  
them as a great credit to  
their family spirit, - then too

now at 12 o'clock  
in the seat of our bus  
3 - you must  
taper down to 100 lbs  
and seems as if they both  
enjoyed themselves most <sup>when</sup> they  
they are making others  
happy - in fact in our way  
Selfish, always doing for those  
in the home as well as  
for those about them.  
#17 is now Monday evening - no longer  
am I talking to my Love, far far  
away, - no indeed you came to  
me in the first mail today. -  
What a joy to see your hand-  
writing after two long weeks of  
silence, now to think that  
twice a week I shall hear from  
you, oh how joyous, - for  
I must confess your possum  
has been a little more lonesome, -  
124 but all's well and Elsie and I



are <sup>and</sup> learning to do more  
and more for each other in  
every way. —

Yes, my dear, I came right  
on and closed the south curtains  
and will do all and every thing  
you suggest, — so far the carpets  
are well kept, so am hoping  
they will not get excited and  
flee from the new housekeeper.

Please begin to give dear Leicester  
great credit as a thoughtful  
careful housekeeper, — for each  
night he invariably goes the  
rounds, much as your father  
did — tests all the windows and  
doors and we help each other  
in putting out the lights <sup>and</sup>  
sometimes he is first in bed  
and sometimes I am asleep an  
hour before he retires, — but so  
far I & have slept in your Uncle  
Tyley's room, every single night

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since you left. — We are both growing  
so truly to love each other. It quite  
seems as though nothing will  
prevent me staying with Elsie,  
each night until you return!  
My office is still a vacancy, —  
but dearest love this afternoon  
I wrote my last examination on  
Rush's breeches, — the Lord willing,  
I shall graduate without a  
fear, — the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. —

All I have to do now  
is to cheer up those about  
me and will call on your  
grandma tomorrow and tell  
her the news from you. —  
At least a part of it — for she  
might not know how to interpret  
your jokes. — I am more than



delighted that your passage  
was so pleasant, and I can  
but be happy to know you  
were in agreeable company<sup>and</sup>  
that you had pleasant  
ship companions — Nothing else  
would do and I am the "Chap"  
who would desire nothing else  
for you & if you know all too well  
my faith and trust in you  
wherever in the world (or) I meant  
you, but it is all right, — are...

Give my best to your father, —  
your uncle Miller is about midcean  
tonight. — I have seen Will Hall  
and your Aunt Emma since he  
sailed, and they both seem happy.

I was about to say I shall not  
be in such a hurry about going  
to sleep in my office these hot  
nights, — for the good mother is <sup>still</sup> ~~is~~  
delayed in her moving scheme,  
the architect has not yet

turned over to the contractor the  
approved plan. I saw a little  
model of the new house on  
Saturday and it was elegant.

Bye the Bye, the "Rubenstein" concert  
went off last Thursday night O.K.  
The Town were pleased so far  
as reports go and I am glad  
your glory was elsewhere, — for  
her Leadership Hubert is  
reigning supreme in certain circles.

You were so truly Christian not  
to send that letter, — it means so  
much more for us both.

Your plan of sending me your journal  
letters suits me to the "T" — I am  
waiting for the next one.

Nether has an excellent chance of  
teaching in Riverside H.S. next year so



She is a "bit" happy too. - But  
have you heard the news  
about George Roy?

He came home the happiest boy on  
earth, he thought, he was accepted  
and his life companion is chosen,  
as Miss Anna Ratcliff, - I think that is  
correct spelling. - She is an especially  
pure Christian Quaker girl. -

A Quaker for lively George, - is  
not that a contrast. - He said, -  
"Ed! were you ever so happy you had to  
sing?" I said, - "Yes sir!" I can feel  
for you and will hold you up all  
I can. - He has made an early move, -  
but God has certainly guided him. -  
Mt. Pleasant, Ohio is her home. - His  
plans are indefinite in part. - He will  
be a business man with father. - A long lot  
of home talk, but it sounds good away from  
home. - Your ever loving Claire. -  
Here is an extra kiss for my Sunshine. -

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Miss Grace Ernestine Hall,  
% James Henry Randall,  
Artillery mansion,  
Westminster,  
London, England.

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